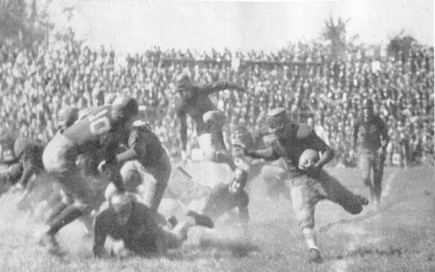
Music & Entertainment During The Great Depression

**Introduction** 

Football action from the 1929 **Big Thursday** game.

In October of 1929, the stock market crashed, marking the end of the Roaring Twenties and the beginning of the Great Depression. South Carolinians, preoccupied with the **Big Thursday** Carolina-Clemson game and the other events of the State Fair, didn’t really notice at first.

The state’s two main economic resources, textiles mills and agriculture, had already been in a depressed state since around 1920 and the hard times continued to worsen.

People who grew up during the Depression said, "No one had any money. We were all in the same boat." Neighbors helped each other through hard times, sickness, and accidents. Farm families got together with neighbors at school programs, church dinners, or dances. Children and adults found ways to have fun for free – playing board games, listening to the radio, or going to outdoor movies in town. http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe30s/life\_01.html

**MUSIC**

Swing music had an electrifying effect on people during the Great Depression. Here was a music that was just for pleasure and meant to be particularly for people who were under tremendous pressure of the Great Depression [Big band](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_band) and [jazz music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz_music) were

increasingly popular. [Duke Ellington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duke_Ellington) and his big band played several types of music, from blues

to gospel to jazz and more. One of his most successful songs was titled  [*It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Don%27t_Mean_a_Thing_(If_It_Ain%27t_Got_That_Swing)).

**DANCE**

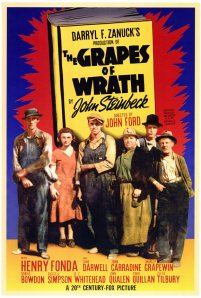
The Wall Street Crash of 1929 ended the Jazz Age, as The Great Depression set in. Dancing continued, with notable inspirations on the Silver Screen. Dance marathons, continuing from the 1920s, now became a hopeful step up for financially struggling dancers in the early 1930s. Then by 1936 dancers were ready to cut loose again, with the new hits of the Shag, Big Apple and the late blossoming of Lindy Hop and jitterbug.



**FILMS**

Many films still highly cherished today were created during the 1920s. During that period, Walt Disney, the pioneer animator, produced films Americans loved to see. One of his most well-known animations was the tale of the Three Little Pigs, originally produced in 1933. Another of his films during that time period was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Disney’s films provided entertainment for all ages and became a part of American culture.



[](http://twentyfourframes.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/grapes-of-wrath-poster.jpg)**A poor Midwest family is forced off of their land. They travel to California, suffering the misfortunes of the homeless in the Great Depression.**

**RADIO**

Listening to radio broadcasting became a source of nearly free entertainment for millions of Americans. The radio stations had a little bit of everything for all ages, young and old. One of the most common radio shows for young children was Little Orphan Annie. The show is about an adventurous young girl who had an equally adventurous dog named Sandy. Together, Annie and Sandy would try to solve mysteries. The show was so loved by children that they soon began to purchase small items of merchandise such as pins of Annie.]



Adults listened to newscasts, radio theater, the Grand Ole Opry, soap operas, and sermons as well.



The cast of the NBC radio show Oxydol's Own Ma Perkins in 1933. Ma Perkins was the first daytime radio serial sponsored by the Procter & Gamble Co.